

To: Peterson, Mary[Peterson.Mary@epa.gov]
From: Howell, Tonya
Sent: Fri 8/18/2017 3:29:40 PM
Subject: RE: Question about Superfund sites being redeveloped by schools

Here are a few examples I found with a quick look. There were some others that I haven't included where sites have been used for school educational purposes, athletic fields (not sure if they were school fields or not), and sites that have planned school uses that haven't been implemented yet. I think we can certainly find applicable examples, if needed.

DEPUE/NEW JERSEY ZINC/MOBIL CHEMICAL CORP.

Pre-Cleanup Use: The actual zinc smelting facility began operations in 1903 on 175 acres of farmland but grew to more than 860 acres. The facility was composed of the original primary smelter plant and several associated plants, which were added over the years. The original plant produced slab zinc, used in the automobile and appliances industries, and sulfuric acid. Zinc dust was also produced and used as an additive to produce corrosive-resistant paints. New Jersey Zinc constructed a di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) fertilizer plant in 1966. In 1972, Mobil Chemical Corp. leased the DAP and sulfuric acid plants from New Jersey Zinc. Mobil officially purchased a portion of the original property in 1975. In 1985, the ownership of those plants was transferred to Mobil. The Mobil plants were demolished in April 1992.

Post-Cleanup Use: The plant is in a scenic area along the Illinois River and the community would like to redevelop a portion of the site as a recreational or ecological resort. The city may reclaim the industrial portion of the site for industrial use. DePue students conducted experiments on the site as part of their study of the scientific method. DePue Mechanical, Inc. continues to operate a facility located within site boundaries at 216 W 4th Street. Several existing commercial establishments operate on site, including a restaurant, a bar, a general store, and a hair salon. Also, establishments that serve a public function operate on site, including a school, a library, post office/bank, churches, and a police station.

WELSBACH & GENERAL GAS MANTLE (CAMDEN RADIATION)

Pre-Cleanup Use: The Welsbach Company and the General Gas Mantle Company were involved in the production of gas mantles from the late 1890s to 1941. The companies utilized thorium, a radionuclide that emits gamma radiation during radioactive decay, as a constituent in their manufacturing process. In addition, four nearby residential areas exhibit elevated levels of gamma radiation.

Post-Cleanup Use: A 99-seat community theatre has been built on a portion of the site by a community group called Art of Camden. The Welsbach property (an active port, warehouse, and logistics facility) is currently owned by GMT Realty LLC, which continues to use the 1st floor of the building for offices, warehousing operations, and storage, with a small portion of the 2nd floor used for offices and training. On May 4, 2015, a ground breaking ceremony was held for the construction of the new Gloucester City Middle School

BROWN'S DUMP

Pre-Cleanup Use: From the late 1940's until the mid-1950's, the Site was an operating landfill used to deposit ash from City of Jacksonville municipal incinerators.

Post-Cleanup Use: After closure of the landfill in 1953, the property was obtained by the Duval County School Board in 1955, through condemnation procedures, for construction of a school (Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School, closed since 2001). At approximately the same time and later, land surrounding the original landfill began to undergo development of single-family residential homes and apartment complexes. Two acres of the site are used for a Jacksonville Electric Authority electrical substation.

AGRICULTURE STREET LANDFILL

Pre-Cleanup Use: Operations at ASL began in approximately 1909 and continued until the landfill was closed in the late 1950s. The landfill was reopened for approximately one year in 1965 for use as an open burning and disposal area for debris left in the wake of Hurricane Betsy. From the 1970s through the late 1980s, approximately 47 acres of the site were developed for private and public uses and currently support 67 single-family homes, multiple-family dwellings, retail businesses, an elementary school, a community center, a recreation center and an electrical substation.

Post-Cleanup Use: Currently, the site is partially redeveloped. Prior to Hurricane Rita and Katrina the estimated population residing on the site was 1,137 persons. From the 1970s through the late 1980s, approximately 47 acres of the site were developed for private and public uses that supported 67 single-family homes, multiple-family dwellings (170 units are owned and operated by Housing Authority of New Orleans, 128 units are part of the Gordon Plaza Apartment complex), retail businesses, an elementary school, a community center, a recreation center and an electrical substation. All that remain since the hurricanes are the single-family homes and the electrical substation. All other structures are destroyed and awaiting demolition or redevelopment. The population that remains in the community is several hundred. The rest of the site, approximately 48 acres, remains undeveloped and vegetated. The U.S. Army Corps will temporarily relocate a rail line across part of the undeveloped property as part of an infrastructure improvement project along the Florida Canal.

Tonya Howell

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SUPR/FFPC

913-551-7589

From: Peterson, Mary

Sent: Thursday, August 17, 2017 3:05 PM
To: Friedland, Melissa <Friedland.Melissa@epa.gov>
Cc: Howell, Tonya <Howell.Tonya@epa.gov>; Duteau, Helen <Duteau.Helen@EPA.GOV>
Subject: Question about Superfund sites being redeveloped by schools

Hi Melissa,

Tonya and I are working on a project in Des Moines where the school district is considering building a large athletic stadium on the site. The stadium would be used for football, soccer, and track events, as well as marching band competitions etc. The city has asked us to support them in developing public communications that will help gain the support of their constituents (mainly parents). We recognize that parents may have concerns about their children participating in events on a Superfund site. One piece of information that would be especially helpful is to know whether other sites around the country have been redeveloped for school-related purposes. Can you provide us any information on that?

Mary P. Peterson, Director

Superfund Division

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